



State of California • Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State and Consumer Services Agency

**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**  
Division of the State Architect

**Certified Access Specialist Program**

**NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC WORKSHOPS**

March 31, 2006  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Hilton San Diego/Del Mar Hotel  
15575 Jimmy Durante Boulevard  
Del Mar, CA 92104  
858-792-5200

April 4, 2006  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

California Community Colleges  
1102 'Q' Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conf. Rooms A/B/C  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-8100

The meeting facility is fully accessible.  
Requests for special accommodation (assisted listening device, sign language interpreter, etc.)  
should be sent to Elizabeth Randolph at (916) 324-5591 or by email:  
[elizabeth.randolph@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:elizabeth.randolph@dgs.ca.gov) no later than 5 working days before the meeting.

**Background**

Development of the California Certified Access Specialist (CASp) Program, by the Division of the State Architect (DSA), is nearly complete. Government Code Section 4459.5 authorizes "the State Architect to establish and publicize a program for voluntary certification of any person who meets specified criteria as a Certified Access Specialist."

Distinguished leaders of stakeholder organizations and subject matter experts across the state have collaborated with DSA throughout program development. Founding principles and initial certification criteria were fundamental accomplishments of the Implementation Advisory Committee, whose representatives were mandated by statute. Subject matter experts have been integral to the development of the program's certification examination, as directed by test development consultants. This panel of experts also developed a specification of the knowledge, skills and abilities expected of access specialists.

**The Rulemaking Process**

The purpose of California rulemaking law is to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the adoption of regulations by California state agencies. As the implementing agency for the CASp Program, DSA is finalizing administrative regulations, and plans to initiate a formal rulemaking proceeding in early 2006.

By convening four regional workshops before rulemaking begins, DSA will be able to incorporate public comment to improve the quality of CASp program regulations. At these open public meetings, interested stakeholders and individuals who might be subject to program regulation may engage DSA staff in discussions of matters of concern.

## Workshop Format

Workshops will be hosted by an unbiased, professional facilitator. The prime objective of the facilitator is to ensure that every speaker has the same opportunity to participate. Focused segments of the meeting will begin with a brief introduction of the topic by DSA staff. These presentations will include various references to specific sections of proposed program regulations. For the benefit of attendees, printed copies of current draft regulations will be available at the beginning of the workshop, and will also be available for download in advance. Following each presentation, the facilitator will moderate the ensuing discussion in the time available. As the workshop concludes, attendees may optionally register with DSA to receive notices of subsequent public meetings regarding the CASp Program.

## Discussion Themes

In order to effectively focus the attention of all participants, DSA staff selected three discussion themes, based on comments expressed by collaborating stakeholders as well as public inquiries received by DSA. Following each theme below are examples of anticipated questions:

- Certification Classifications and Qualifications
  - *Why are there multiple classifications of certification?*
  - *Do the services of Access Investigators and Access Architects overlap, or are there distinct boundaries?*
  - *How may worthy applicants become certified if their choice of career path renders them unable to meet the minimum qualifications?*
  - *The two defined classifications don't directly incorporate several significant occupations involving disability access rights. Is this an oversight?*
- Expected Knowledge and Professional Roles of Certified Access Specialists
  - *Does the expertise of an access specialist include California and federal laws?*
  - *What is the Core Knowledge Exam and what does it include?*
  - *Will an access specialist be able to advise me on housing and/or employment issues?*
  - *Will access specialists be able to help defend against baseless threats of litigation?*
- Program Oversight, Public Confidence and Handling of Complaints
  - *How will the state make sure the program is fulfilling its legislative intent?*
  - *In what ways will the program be protected from undue political influence?*
  - *What provisions will there be to catch and expell dishonest access specialists?*
  - *How will the public come to trust the judgement of certified access specialists?*

## Public Comment Process

In order to properly conduct the workshop, anyone wishing to address the meeting must complete a concise Speaker Request form at the beginning of the workshop. There will be a distinct colored form for each discussion theme, to gather information on the topic of concern as well as optional speaker information. Forms will be sequentially numbered to allow for first-come, first-served ordering of individual speakers.

When it's your turn to speak, move to the designated speakers' area, and try to limit your comments to no more than three minutes. Afterward, DSA staff may choose to offer a response limited to one minute, according to the nature of the comments expressed.

### Printed Workshop Resources

Workshop participants may obtain printed copies of the following documents as they arrive:

- Current draft version of regulations for the CASp Program.
- Summary of CASp Certification Requirements
- Summary of the Knowledge Bases of Access Specialists

For further information on this meeting please contact Mark Smith, Associate Architect, Division of the State Architect at (916) 445-1304 or by email at [mark.smith@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:mark.smith@dgs.ca.gov).

### Travel Directions

#### San Diego Meeting:

##### From North

- I-5 South to Via de la Valle.
- Stay in middle lane and turn right.
- Stay in far left lane and turn left at light (Jimmy Durante Blvd). Hotel is on your left.
- Self-Parking is available at \$5.00 per car.

##### From South

- I-5 North to Via de la Valle.
- Stay in left lane - turn left and continue under the underpass.
- Move to the far left lane and turn left at second light (Jimmy Durante Blvd). Hotel is on your left.
- Self-Parking is available at \$5.00 per car.

**Self-Parking is available at the Hotel: \$5.00 per car**

#### Sacramento Meeting:

##### From I-5

- Take the 'Q' Street exit, East.
- Continue on 'Q' Street to 1102 'Q' between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

##### From the Bay Area (Capital Freeway / Business 80)

- Take the 5<sup>th</sup> Street exit. Turn left onto 5<sup>th</sup> Street,
- Continue on 5<sup>th</sup> Street to 'Q' Street. Turn right onto 'Q' Street.
- Continue on 'Q' Street to 1102 'Q' between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

##### From the East (Capital Freeway / Business 80)

- Take the 'P' Street exit. Turn right onto 'P' Street,
- Continue on 'P' Street to 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left onto 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The building is on the southeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> & 'Q' Streets.

**Public Parking Garages (Rates subject to change) Open from 6:00am – 7:00pm**

Benvenuti Plaza – 1515 S Street: \$ 8.00 per day / Flat Rate

10<sup>th</sup> and 'P' Street – between 'O' and 'P': \$20.00 maximum / \$1.25 per 20 minutes

1517 11<sup>th</sup> Street – between 'O' and 'P': \$20.00 maximum / \$1.25 per 20 minutes